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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/676,352	09/30/2003	Jacques Gollier	SP03-132	7130
22928	7590	12/19/2006		
CORNING INCORPORATED			EXAMINER	
SP-TI-3-1			CHIN, CHRISTOPHER L	
CORNING, NY 14831			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1641	

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	12/19/2006	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/676,352

Applicant(s)

GOLLIER ET AL.

Examiner

Christopher L. Chin

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 September 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 15-19 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 and 20-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3/14/05.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election without traverse of Group I – claims 1-14 and 20-24 in the reply filed on 9/21/06 is acknowledged.

Claims 15-19 are withdrawn from consideration.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. Claims 1-14 and 20-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1 is vague. The last part of the claim is not clear as to what "propagation" is being referred to and it is not clear as to whether the "sensor response" is coming from the substrate surface or from the waveguide structure. The claim is also not clear as to how the components of the system are related to each other. The claim reads like a catalog of parts without any specified relationship between the components. The claim appears to be incomplete. The lack of an "and" before "2)" suggests the presence of other components.

Claim 20 is vague because it is not clear as to how the components of the system are related to each other. The claim reads like a catalog of parts without any specified relationship between the components. The claim appears to be incomplete. The lack of an "and" before "2)" suggests the presence of other components.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-14 and 20-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Rudigier et al.

Rudigier et al (WO 95/03538) discloses a label independent detection system. The system comprises a multiwell plate with an optical interrogation apparatus underneath each well. Each well was a lower surface that contains a bio-responsive layer (antigens or antibodies). A diffraction grating coupled waveguide is positioned underneath each well. A light source, optical delivery system and detection instrumentation are also included (pages 2-7). To prevent small inaccuracies in the angular position of the wells, each well is illuminated with two incident light fields that induce mode excitation in counterpropagating directions. Each of the two outcoupled light fields is monitored with a separate position sensitive light detector that measures the angular positions of the outcoupled light field (page 8). A fluid handling system can be used to clean the wells and pipette samples in the wells (page 2).

With respect to claims 2-13 and 21-24, these claims appear to recite uses for the claimed system and thus do not further limit the claimed system. If not uses, then the limitations in claims 2-13 and 21-24 could be functional limitations. Since the system of

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Rudigier et al contains the same components as the instant system, it should be able to perform the functional limitations recited in claims 2-13 and 21-24.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

The following US Patents disclose optical diffraction grating systems for detection of analytes:

7,118,710; 7,094,595; and 6,707,561

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christopher L. Chin whose telephone number is (571) 272-0815. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Long Le can be reached on (571) 272-0823. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Christopher L. Chin
Primary Examiner
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12/9/06